

Cabin has new home



Acquired by Pioneer Trail State Park in 1980, the Riter cabin was formally dedicated Saturday. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Council of the Twelve of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints dedicated the house. His wife, Elise

Rogers Wirthlin, is a descendent of the Riter family. One of two remaining structures from Salt Lake Valley's first settlement, it was originally built in the southern section of the Old Fort near 400 South and 300 West.

Council is working on a plan to let voters review judicial evaluations

Associated Press

The State Judicial Council is devising a new program that would enable voters to review a judge's performance before casting their votes in retention elections.

The State Court Administrator's Office is refining a questionnaire that will be sent to attorneys throughout the state. They'll be asked to grade Utah's 78 trial judges and 12 appellate judges, said Court Administrator William Vickrey.

The purpose is to provide information to the Judicial Council, which would decide if the judge should be certified for a retention election, as well as to the public.

The assessment also is designed to show the judge how he or she is perceived by participants and observers of the court process and to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses so the judge knows where improvements are needed, Vickrey said.

"Utah is among the leaders in this area," he said, noting that only 13 states have judicial evaluations and only one — Alaska — makes the evaluations public.

Vickrey said that in Alaska, several judges have either lost retention elections or have chosen not to run for another term after their performance evaluations were made public.

"The goal, of course, is to assure having as competent and efficient a judiciary as possible and in assisting the judges in their efforts to perform their very important constitutional role as effectively as they can," he said.

A constitutional amendment approved by voters several years ago changed the way judges were appointed and retained to subsequent terms. A more recent change did away with contested judicial elections and replaced them with a retention election, where the judge has no opponent but runs on his record.

Environmental concerns prompt postponement of Snowbasin land swap

OGDEN (UPI) — Environmental concerns, including possible destruction of watershed and wildlife areas, have postponed a proposed Snowbasin-Forest Service land swap until at least December, U.S. Forest Service officials say.

"The issues are controversial enough that we decided we need to have a complete environmental impact statement," said Glenn Casamassa, recreation forester for the service.

Snowbasin officials want ownership of the Forest Service land before the resort continues with expansion plans, including condominiums and a golf course. In exchange, the Forest Service would receive 1,320 acres of Snowbasin property that includes parcels at Port Ramp at Pineview Reservoir and northeast of Causey Reservoir.

The decision to conduct an EIS reopens the public comment process, allowing people until Aug. 22 to respond to the proposal. Casa-



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